

FIG. 4

As evident from Figure 4, the method of the present invention, as recited in claims 19 and 21, acquires “cut points” and expresses “corner points by cut points possessed by adjacent boundary cells.” “Cut points” are illustrated in Figure 4 and are described on page 10, lines 3-25, of the application as originally filed. “Corner points” are illustrated in Figure 4 and are described on page 11, lines 4-12, of the application as originally filed. It is plain from Figure 4 of the present application that “corner points” are not generally shared by boundary octants, but are points along the boundary located within a single boundary cell.

The Examiner contends that the Kela reference teaches “cut points” in Figure 4 (Office Action, dated April 7, 2005, at 3, lines 14-16). Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s contention. Figure 4 of the Kela reference is reproduced below.

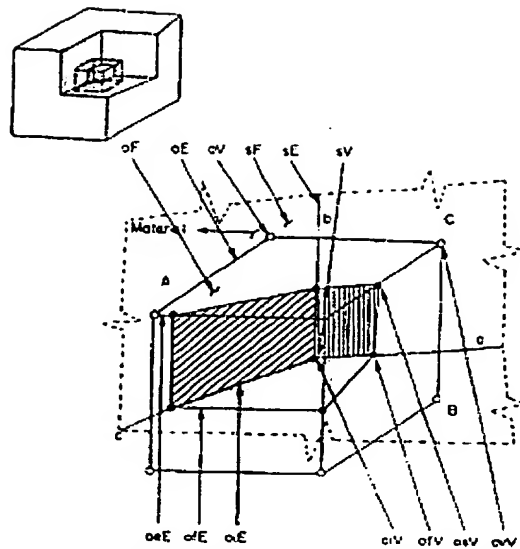


Figure 4. Octant spatially located at the convex corner of the object (magnified view)

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner point out where in Figure 4 Kela has identified “cut points” and where in the Kela reference the step is taught, or suggested, of “acquiring cut points by replacing each boundary cell...by cut points on twelve ridge lines...” as recited in claims 1, 7 and 20 of the present application. Applicants contend that even if the Kela reference were to illustrate “cut points,” which the reference does not, the Kela reference absolutely does not teach “acquiring cut points” in the manner recited in the instant claims.

The Examiner also contends that the Kela reference teaches “corner points” in Figure 3 (Office Action, April 7, 2005, at 8, lines 9-11). Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s contention. Figure 3 of the Kela reference is reproduced below.

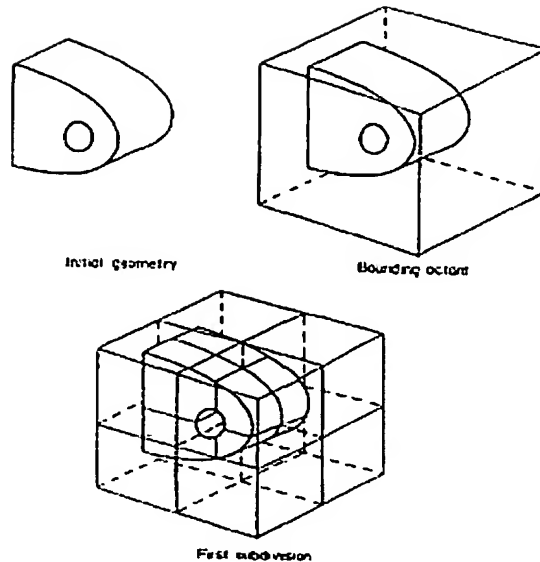


Figure 3. Bounding box encloses the objects, which is then recursively subdivided

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner point out where in Figure 3 Kela has identified “corner points” and where in the Kela reference the step is taught, or suggested, of “expressing corner points by cut points possessed by adjacent boundary cells” as recited in claims 19 and 21 of the present application. Applicants contend that even if the Kela reference were to illustrate “corner points,” which the reference does not, the Kela reference absolutely does not teach “expressing corner points” in the manner recited in the instant claims.

H. Indicia of Nonobviousness

Once the scope and content of the prior art has been determined, and the differences between the prior art and the claimed subject matter ascertained, and the level of ordinary